

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV. On 1st November 1996

O ye who believe! Be mindful of Allah and say the straightforward word.

He will reform your conduct for you and forgive you your defaults. And whoso obeys Allah and His Messenger shall surely attain to a mighty success.

The Holy Quran. al-Ahzab [The Confederates]: 71, 72.

I have returned from the tour of Norway. On the way we also had an opportunity to stay in Sweden for a day. With the grace of God I have seen the Community waking up afresh everywhere and with the grace of Allah the Almighty MTA has been very beneficial in offering moral training. As one goes from south to north [one finds that] atheism increases. Atheism is far more rife in the Scandinavian countries compared to the countries of Europe and Switzerland is in the middle which is far excels them all in atheism. There is more of a religious inclination in the south but to a religion that gave birth to atheism that is to say through such stupid beliefs which cannot be logically accepted because to hold onto those beliefs one must wave goodbye to rationality so such people become extremists. Here 2 types of reactions arise in opposition: those who move away saying *Why should we interfere?* - The second is of those who move away and wave goodbye to religion and become atheists. These are the 2 extremes [found] in [countries] such as Italy, Spain and Portugal where there is either strict adherence to Christianity and for whom rationality has nothing to do with religion. Such people become extremists. Logic and rationale are given more importance in southern Europe. In such countries it is important to work logically with an understanding of the situation. There is a strange contradiction in these countries where Christianity is used as a weapon against Islam so even if they are atheists themselves they try to support Christianity. It is a world of contradictions where the truths have been injured. Ignoring the ugly contradictions of Christianity they promote the extremist ideals and contradictions of the Muslims and unfortunately the Muslims leaders act so as to provide them with ample opportunity to do so.

Sexual liberation also increases in countries where atheism is on the rise. Our children are growing up in these surroundings amidst such perils. In view of this there was a need to reach every child to reveal the facts of the matter. God has granted us the means to do so through MTA. Children are very positively influenced when they see the non-Muslims nodding their heads in agreement to the answers given to their allegations. Children especially are taking a great interest in MTA. Almighty God has through His special destiny granted the Community with such a system to which their survival has been connected. MTA stations have been established in far off places and even in the forests of Africa where the Community holds its *Tarbiyyati* Classes [for moral training] as a result of which there was a big void in the faraway places and a great concern about caring for the new Ahmadis for whom God has granted the means of religious and education and training through MTA. MTA has also shown itself making concentrated efforts towards providing care for the youth in Europe through the grace of Allah. I have seen lots of children busy working for MTA and lots of young boys and girls are occupied in their fields. It is also the glory of Allah that

those who are ahead in working for MTA are also far ahead in their education. The bounties coming from Almighty God have inter-related benefits. Their involvement in these works also serves as a moral training for them.

The subject of *Tarbiyyat* and self-correction is largely concerned with the straightforward word and where *The Holy Quran* has waged an unusually forceful *Jihad* against falseness there God has declared the straightforward word to be a cause of extraordinary love and admiration and extraordinary blessings and this has no equivalent anywhere else. The highest type of truth is the straightforward word. A good word in itself serves as a guardian of one's higher virtues.

For example it is also against the good word for a person to be occupied in working for the faith but neglecting the prayer because there is no duality in virtue. It is the foremost priority of those expending their time for work of the faith to be steadfast in prayer. *The Holy Quran* places emphasis upon the good word and it should pre-dominate all our good works. Even MTA is not exempt from this. One should always analyse whether one's good works are carried out for Allah or for showing off. Wherever show interferes in the fundamental objectives of the faith it becomes detrimental to it.

The Noble Quran does not just emphasise truthfulness rather it emphasises the straightforward word. If you follow Muhammad the Messenger of Allah and receive his bounty you must always make it a habit to adopt the straightforward word. This habit would slowly and gradually give birth to a light without which you will be unable to see the darkness within.

The greatest awe possessed by the Holy Prophet ﷺ was in his straightforward word: straightforward and clear and so powerful that it captures the hearts. If you adopt the straightforward word not only will it reform your own being but will empower your words. Then people will listen and be receptive to its influence. Fulfil the 2 demands of the good word and wisdom for these nations are always receptive to its influence. These people had not rebelled against God but against Trinity and because they had nothing to replace it with so their rebellion was declared to be against God.

If the truth is spoken straightforwardly then one also has to offer sacrifices. Self-reformation cannot be made without adherence to the straightforward word and without offering sacrifices for its sake. The Quranic verses speak of the fruits and the blessed rewards of the straightforward word in that Allah the Almighty reforms the situation and graces with forgiveness from Himself and then one receives 'a mighty success' as a result of obedience to Allah and his Messenger. May Allah Almighty grant it to us.